

Income Maintenance Advisory Committee

Division of Economic Support

M I N U T E S

Thursday, February 15, 2001

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

125 S. Webster Street, GEF III

Room 041

Madison, WI

County Attendees: Jackie Bennett, Racine Co. WDC, Dick Buschmann, Milwaukee Co. DHS, Jill Erickson, Milwaukee Co. DHS, Joanne Faber, Washington Co. DSS, Liz Green, Dane Co. DHS, Jane Huebsch, Marathon Co. DSS, Ed Kamin, Tri-Chair, Kenosha Co. JC, Robert Macaux, Florence Co. DHS, Nan Pahl, Brown Co., John Rathman, Outagamie Co., Shirley Ross, LaCrosse Co. HSD, Sue Schmitz, Waukesha Co. DHS, Sara Shackleton, Dane County JC, and Michael Van Dyke, Door Co. DSS.

State Attendees: Peggy Bartels, Tri-Chair, DHFS/DHCF, Rita Black-Radloff, BWSP, Ginevra Ewers, BDS, John Haine, DHFS/DHCF/BHCE, Tim Hineline, BWSP, Jim Jones, DHFS/DHCF, Rose Lynch, ASD, Amy Mendel-Clemens, BFS, Mary Rowin, Acting Tri-Chair, AO, Marilyn Rudd, BWSP/OFSMA, Edie Sprehn, BFS, Chris Williams, BWSP, Susan Wood, DHFS/DHCF, and Rick Zynda, BWSP/OFSMA.

Other: Jane Ahlstrom, AFSCME Council and Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Wisconsin Counties Association.



General IMAC Announcements

Rita Black-Radloff, BWSP, will no longer be staffing IMAC and her replacement has not yet been identified. The new staff person will be at the March 2001 IMAC meeting.

Reorganization

Mary Rowin, Acting Tri-Chair, discussed the DWD reorganization of two divisions. On Jan. 31, 2001 at his "State of the State" address, Governor Thompson declared Wisconsin's efforts to reform welfare a success and signaled the State's commitment to integrate low-income workers more fully into the State's workforce development efforts. As part of the effort to ensure Wisconsin continues to be a leader in this post-welfare reform era, the Division of Economic Support (DES) and the Division of Workforce Excellence (DWE) will be consolidated into a new division of integrated workforce programs. The new division has been tentatively named "Workforce Solutions."

The DWS managers are now conducting strategic planning sessions to bring the work of the two divisions together, ultimately serving our customers better. Mary added that the divisions' business would be handled as usual and specifics would be made clear when finalized, available and necessary. If you have access to the DWD workweb, the following is a hyperlink for more information on the reorganization: <http://dwdworkweb/dws/> Please direct any questions or concerns to Pat McDonnell by email at mcdonpa@dwd.state.wi.us or by phone at 608/267-7381.

CARES Update

Rose Lynch provided the update and a handout on the CARES recent and upcoming changes overview.

Rose also encouraged the local agencies to take a look at the new Wisconsin e-government web site www.wisconsin.gov. Agencies should feel free to provide comments on what is lacking, what should be changed, etc. DOA would like feedback from the agencies that delivered the services described on the web site.

Notices Redesign

Chris Williams provided the information and a handout on the CARES Client Notice Redesign. She said the top three reasons why the project was undertaken were to: 1). expand the reason code text, 2). improve format and style of notice for readability, and 3). 028 reason code changes.

Ed Kamin inquired about the issue of multiple language translations and whose responsibility it was to have the information available in these various languages. A discussion ensued and the suggestion was made to have the Civil Rights Compliance Language Translation issue on the agenda for next month.

Walk on-Child Care Allocations

Ginevra Ewers discussed the Child Care calculations for administration and that the 2000 levels will be the greater of 5% of this year's level of child care benefits expenditures, 5% of last year's level of child care benefit expenditures, or \$20,000. A chart was emailed to the Regional Offices on 2/21/01 and will be included in the March or April CARS run.

Dick Buschmann inquired if the flexibility could be extended to extending the use of funds through June 2001. Ginevra will explore this possibility and report back to IMAC.

MA Update

Susan Wood stated that DHFS made the decision with regards to the CARES priorities to change the Medicare Premium Assistance program first, then to automate QMB/SLMB/QI.

Susan provided the update. July 1, 2001 is when the mail-in application process begins. The BadgerCare waiver to provide coverage for adults was approved.

FS Update

Rick Zynda provided the update on the Food Stamp (FS) error rate. He then shared handouts on some of the key FS program changes included in the new federal regulations and the section of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)-**Crossroads-New Direction in Social Policy** that discussed recommendations for Reauthorization of the FS Act in 2002 made by the APHSA workgroup that he serves on. The complete document can be found on the APHSA's website. He also discussed additional recommendations made by the DOA FS Federal Policy Workgroup. Rick added that if anyone had comments on the suggested DOA workgroup changes to send them to him directly by **Friday, March 9, 2001**. His email is zyndari@dwd.state.wi.us.

Joanne Faber inquired if a mass change would be programmed in CARES to handle the increase in the FS shelter costs. A subsequent email was sent to answer this question. It said, "according to federal regulations, this provision **is not** to be implemented as a mass change." It is to be implemented for new applications and recertifications beginning March 1.

Caseload Discussion

Mary Rowin, Acting Tri-Chair, discussed the separation of the contracts and the streamlining of the entire process. The IM contracts will be for entitlement programs and the W-2 contracts will focus on work programs. Dick Buschmann stated for clarification, and was confirmed, that the W-2 and Child Care eligibility funding will be in the W-2 contracts and the FS and MA eligibility funding will be in the IM contract.

As a follow-up to the exploration of funding for a caseload study, Peggy Bartels, Tri-Chair, added that she and Jennifer Noyes had met to discuss. Peggy stated that no funding is available to fund a caseload study at this time, due to several converging factors, one of them being the structural budget deficit.

Michael Van Dyke stated this response was the same rhetoric for the past several years the local agencies have received since requesting this study. Peggy stated her regrets for the less than positive response, but emphasized this was the current condition in the present budget discussion.

Susan Wood added that perhaps a workgroup could be convened to review the nature of the work (caseload) and reestablish some baseline levels. In addition, Dick added that this workgroup could come to a consensus of the nature of the workload and establish standards and service levels. Susan offered herself as a co-chair to begin synthesizing the data we have.

Meeting was adjourned.



Next meeting:

Date: March 15, 2001

Location: GEF III, Room 041, 125 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI